AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving image data from an image database having a plurality of ~~items of image data~~ images registered therein, wherein at least one of the images comprises facial image data, the apparatus comprising:

an extractor for

selecting a point contained in at least one of said images,

determining if the selected point is included in a portion of the image that is facial image data,

designating the facial image data comprising the selected point as designated facial image data when the point is selected, if the selected point is determined to be within a portion of the image that is facial image data, and

extracting the designated facial image data from the ~~a predetermined region of~~ at least one of said ~~items of image data registered in said image database~~ images when it is determined that the selected point is within a portion of the image that is facial image data;

a retrieval key image designator for designating said extracted facial image data as a retrieval key image; and

a retriever for graphically comparing said retrieval key image to at least one other ~~item of~~ image [[data]] in the image database and retrieving from said image database ~~image data~~ an image containing ~~an image~~ facial image data that is identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical comparison.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said designator designates more than one said retrieval key image.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said extractor extracts more than one [[said]] designated facial image of said predetermined region from said image data images in said image database for storage and said designator designates a retrieval key image from said more than one designated facial image of said predetermined region stored.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said retriever uses said designated retrieval key image to retrieve more than one item of image [[data]] containing [[an]] facial image data identical or analogous to said retrieval key image.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said designator designates more than one retrieval key image.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising:

selecting a point in at least one of a plurality of images registered in the image database;

determining if the selected point is part of a facial image when the point is selected;

designating the facial image as designated facial image data if the point is part of a facial image;

extracting the designated facial image data when it is determined that the selected point is part of a facial image;

~~referring to a plurality of items of image data registered in an image database, and extracting image data from a predetermined region of at least one of said items of image data;~~

designating said extracted <u>designated facial</u> image [[data]] <u>as</u> a retrieval key image; and

<u>graphically</u> comparing said retrieval key image to at least one other ~~item of~~ image [[data]] and retrieving from said image database <u>an</u> image [[data]] containing [[an]] <u>a facial</u> image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image<u> based on said graphical comparison</u>.

8. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising;

a retrieval key image extractor for extracting <u>facial</u> image data from said plurality of items of image data registered in said image database<u>,</u>

<u>wherein said facial image data is selected by selecting a point within an item of image data and determining that facial image data comprises the selected point, and</u>

<u>the facial image data is extracted when the point is selected</u>;

a storage for storing said extracted <u>facial</u> image data therein;

a retrieval key image designator for designating a retrieval key image from the stored extracted <u>facial</u> image data; and

a retriever for <u>graphically</u> comparing said designated retrieval key image to more than one item of image data and retrieving from said image database more than one item of image data containing [[an]] <u>facial</u> image <u>data</u> identical or analogous to said retrieval key image<u> based on said graphical comparison</u>.

9 - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising:

selecting a point contained in at least one of a plurality of items of image data registered in the image database;

determining if a facial image comprises the selected point when the point is selected;

designating the facial image as designated facial image data if the point is part of a facial image;

extracting the designated facial image data from a plurality of items of image data registered in [[an]] the image database when it is determined that the selected point is part of a facial image;

storing in a storage said extracted designated facial image data from more than one of said plurality of items of image data;

designating a retrieval key image from the stored extracted image data; and

graphically comparing said designated retrieval key image to at least one other item of image data and retrieving from said image database more than one item of image data containing that contains [[an]] a facial image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical comparison.

12. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising:

a retrieval key image extractor for extracting facial image data from said plurality of items of image data registered in said image database,

wherein said facial image data is selected by selecting a point within at least one of the items of image data and determining that facial image data comprises the selected point, and

the facial image data is extracted when the point is selected;

a storage for storing extracted <u>facial</u> image data from at least two items of image data

therein;

a retrieval key image designator for designating more than one retrieval key image from the

stored extracted <u>facial</u> image data; and

a retriever for <u>graphically</u> comparing said more than one designated retrieval key [[image]]

<u>images</u> to more than one item of image data and retrieving from said image database image data

containing [[an]] <u>a facial</u> image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image<u> based on said</u>

<u>graphical comparison</u>.

13 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon

which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image

data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising:

<u>selecting a point contained in at least one of a plurality of items of image data registered in</u>

<u>the image database;</u>

<u>determining if a facial image comprises the selected point when the point is selected;</u>

<u>designating the facial image as designated facial image data if the point is part of a facial</u>

<u>image;</u>

extracting <u>the designated facial</u> image data from a plurality of items of image data registered

in [[an]] <u>the</u> image database <u>when it is determined that the selected point is part of a facial image</u>;

storing in a storage extracted <u>facial</u> image data from more than one of said plurality of items

of image data;

designating more than one retrieval key image from said stored extracted <u>facial</u> image data;

and

graphically comparing said more than one designated retrieval key image to at least one

other item of image data and retrieving from said image database items of image data containing

[[an]] a facial image identical or analogous to said retrieval key image based on said graphical

comparison.

16. (Previously Presented) The image data retrieval apparatus of claim 1, further

comprising:

an image obtainer for obtaining information corresponding to an image;

a table for having recorded therein said information and the retrieval key image, correlated

with each other; and

a converter for referring to said table to convert said information to a retrieval key image.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said information obtainer obtains more

than one item of information.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said obtainer obtains information in a

form of a name of a person.

20. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the method

further comprises:

obtaining information corresponding to an image; and

converting said information to a retrieval key image with reference to a table having

recorded therein said information and the retrieval key image, correlated with each other.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving desired image data from an image database having a plurality of items of image data registered therein, comprising:

an extractor for extracting ~~an image of a predetermined region~~ a facial image from said image data registered in said image database, wherein said facial image is selected by selecting a point within the image data and determining that a facial image comprises the selected point, and the facial image is extracted when the point is selected;

a retrieval key image designator for designating said extracted facial image as an image serving as a retrieval key; and

a retriever for using said retrieval key image to retrieve from said image database image data containing ~~an image~~ facial images identical or analogous to said retrieval key image,

wherein ~~said retrieval key image is a partial image having an area of said image data registered in said image database and~~ said retriever graphically compares said retrieval key image to at least one other item of image data registered in the image database to identify images having facial images identical or analogous to said retrieval key image ~~and an image having an area of said image data registered in said image database for retrieval~~.